

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An accounting method for collecting efficiently a charge for using an application program is provided. When an application program installed on a client was started and a predetermined function, such as printing, was performed, a function performance detecting program detects this, a user specifying information obtaining program obtains user specifying information for specifying a user of the client, and a user specifying information sending program sends it to a server via a network. On the server, a function performance detecting program detects that the predetermined function was performed on the client and a user specifying program specifies a user who used the function from the user specifying information. An application program type specifying program specifies the type of the application program used and an accounting program imposes charges on the user according to the type of the application program and the frequency of the use of the function.